

From: Gilbert, Mike
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2004 10:12 AM
To: DWD DVR ALL
Subject: Ticket to Work and IPE's

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the IPE and Ticket to Work (TTW) relationship. Social Security currently automatically assigns the Ticket to Work to DVR when an IPE is developed with a TTW recipient. Therefore, the check boxes on the bottom of the IPE form are no longer meaningful.

Currently Sue Kell is processing the 1365's to get tickets assigned for consumers with IPE's dated 1/1/04-6/30/04, so if the CDR protection is critical you will need to notify Sue and she will process a 1365 immediately. She will process those with IPE's dated 7/1/04-12/31/04 by the end of the year and then will process them monthly. Remember that to process an unsigned 1365 we must submit the first and signature page of the IPE. (The IPE signature page should be scanned and attached to the IRIS IPE case note, not to a general case note.)

The TTW recipient is protected from continuing disability reviews (CDR) so long as the ticket is assigned and the TTW recipient demonstrates adequate progress is being made toward the vocational objective and a CDR had not already been initiated.

Social Security considers that the consumer is "using your ticket" if they are actively following their IPE. During the first 24 months there are no work requirements, the only requirement is that they are "actively" following your IPE. It is important for consumers to understand, however, that Social Security has a strict interpretation of what constitutes adequate progress. It is expected that the consumer will work 3 months at SGA during the third year of the ticket assignment; 6 months at SGA during the fourth year; and 9 months at SGA during the fifth year. The consequence of not meeting these guidelines is that the consumer may have a CDR like they used to. It will not affect their benefits unless as a result of the CDR the individual is determined to no longer be disabled and entitled to benefits. If that happens, however, and the individual is still involved in working toward an employment goal, the individual may be eligible to delay the cessation of benefits through a "section 301" review while they complete their IPE and then achieve employment.

If the consumer's IPE indicates that it will take longer than 24 months (2 years) to reach their vocational goal, you should recommend that the consumer contact Maximus in writing during the 24th month of their IPE and request to inactivate their ticket. Their ticket will remain assigned for 3 months during which time they will receive CDR protection. After the 3 months their ticket will move into the "not in use" category. Once in this category the consumer will not receive CDR protection and there are also no work requirements. When she/he are near reaching their vocational goal she/he may again request that their ticket be assigned to DVR (complete a 1365 form). This will restart the initial 24 months of "using your ticket process, with CDR protection and no work requirements.

For definitive answers to Social Security benefit questions or Ticket to Work the consumer should be referred to the Social Security Administration office.

Questions about the contents of this memo should be directed to Sue Kell or Mike Gilbert.